

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02401 310828Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 L-03 /025 W
-----055088 311337Z /47

R 310521Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO W H SHELEY JR DIR FEB USGAO HONOLULU HI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2843
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2401

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AGAO, ETRD
SUBJ: GAO REVIEW: "ANTIDUMPING ACT OF 1921"

REF: (A) SHELEY TELEX HONOLULU 290212Z MAR 78,
(B) STATE 072116

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN HOLDING UP ON SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS FOR GAO REVIEW OUTLINED REF B IN ANTICIPATION OF RECEIVING MORE SPECIFIC ITINERARY, INASMUCH AS TEAM'S DESIRED CONTACTS WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE THAT SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ITS TIME BE SPENT OUTSIDE CANBERRA. HOWEVER, REF A NOW REQUESTS HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN CANBERRA FOR ENTIRE APRIL 16-28 PERIOD ALLOCATED TO AUSTRALIA.

2. PLEASE PROVIDE MORE DETAILED ITINERARY AND REVISED REQUIREMENTS FOR HOTEL ROOMS. INASMUCH AS THREE COMPANIES LISTED IN REF B FOR APPOINTMENTS ARE ALL IN OR NEAR MELBOURNE, TEAM WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE TO OVERNIGHT IN MELBOURNE. EMBASSY WOULD PRESUME THAT TEAM WOULD ALSO WISH TO VISIT SYDNEY. WHILE CANBERRA IS PROPER PLACE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN CANBERRA IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY LIMITED TO FIRMS PROVIDING GOODS AND SERVICES TO LOCAL POPULATION OF 200,000. MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY CONTAIN BULK OF COUNTRY'S BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

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3. WHILE EMBASSY IS QUITE HAPPY TO HAVE GAO TEAM VISIT AUSTRALIA, IT MIGHT BE WELL TO POINT OUT THAT U.S. ANTI-DUMPING ACT IS LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO AUSTRALIAN TRADE. AUSTRALIA IS A HIGH-COST COUNTRY, WITH LIMITED MANUFACTURED EXPORTS AND AN IMPORT-SUBSTITUTION ORIENTATION. EXPORTS TO U.S., ABOUT HALF THE VALUE OF U.S. EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA,

CONSIST LARGELY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, FOR WHICH U.S. QUOTAS RATHER THAN DUMPING RESTRAINTS ARE THE BIG ISSUE. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM CONGEN MELBOURNE THAT AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES LISTED REFTEL B MAY HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS IN PAST, BUT THESE COMPANIES NOTWITHSTANDING, EMBASSY WISHES TO FOREWARN GAO TEAM THAT IT IS LIKELY TO BE DISAPPOINTED AT THE LIMITED EXTENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF AND CONCERN ABOUT U.S. ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY ANTI-DUMPING CONCERNS THAT HAVE ARISEN VIS-A-VIS AUSTRALIA IN PAST 2-3 YEARS AT LEAST, AND GIVEN CURRENT CONDITIONS, DUMPING IN FUTURE WOULD SEEM TO BE LESS RATHER THAN MORE OF A LIKELIHOOD.

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Message Attributes

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